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ABSTRACT

Ohio's Career Development Blueprint is a key component of the state's career development program. The blueprint is a document that includes learner outcomes, indicators, and suggested classroom activities organized by 12 key topic areas: self-awareness, career information, academic planning, future trends, economics, vocational orientation, self-assessment, career exploration, reduction of bias, employability skills, community involvement, and decision making/goal setting. The blueprint is available in three versions--for grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. All three versions incorporate the National Career Guidance and Counseling Guidelines that were developed by the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee. In the blueprints, the following items are provided for each of the 12 topics: definition; one to three learner goals and numerous indicators to define the goals; several activities to help students master the leaner goals; and suggestions for integrating the concepts into the classroom. Career activity packets, another popular resource for elementary and middle grade teachers and counselors, are also available from the Career Development Service of the Ohio Department of Education. Each 8- to 10-page packet contains ready-to-use classroom ideas (worksheets, bulletin board ideas, small units of study, and teacher ideas) that have been developed by master teachers. (MN)

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American Association For Career Education

AACE Bonus Brief

Ohio's *Career Development Blueprint* and Career Activity Packets: Resources for the Classroom Educator

Cynthia Gahris

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This is the third in a series of articles for AACE about Ohio's Career Development Program. Previous articles featured the Individual Career Plan (ICP) and the Career Passport, and the network of career coordinators Ohio has in place. To help the career coordinators in their work with Ohio's K-12 educators, and to provide continuity in career classroom activities, we have developed resources that are used statewide.

We believe that career development should be infused or integrated into all K-12 curricula and classroom activities. Because of this philosophy, we have not developed a statewide course of study for Career Development. Instead, we encourage educators to use *Ohio's Career Development Blueprint*, a document that includes learner outcomes, indicators, and suggested classroom activities organized by 12 key topic areas. The *Blueprint* is available in three versions: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12, and incorporates the National Career Guidance and Counseling Guidelines developed by the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee. The 12 key topic areas found in the *Blueprint* are the following:

Self-Awareness	Self-Assessment
Career Information	Career Exploration
Academic Planning	Reduction of Bias
Future Trends	Employability Skills
Economics	Community Involvement
Vocational Orientation	Decision Making/Goal Setting

Each key topic is defined in the *Blueprint*, and has one to three learner goals assigned. Following each learner goal are numerous indicators to define the goal. Then, several activities are suggested to help students master the learner goals, and to give educators ideas about how the concepts can be integrated in the classroom. Many of our K-12 educators still don't realize that Career Development involves more than simply providing students with information about jobs. The *Blueprint* helps educators see the entire scope of Career Development, and helps dispel the myth that career activities are only for high school students and are only done by the guidance counselor. This document defines the specific and developmentally appropriate career skills students need to learn.

The Career Development Service of the Ohio Department of Education offers another popular resource for elementary and middle grade teachers and counselors. We feel that educators need to be given new career integration ideas as frequently as possible. To achieve that, each summer we bring together a small group of career coordinators and local educators who are particularly creative. This group develops 18 activity packets (nine each for elementary and middle school) which are then distributed on a monthly basis to the 89 career coordinators across the state. They, in turn, duplicate the activity packets and share them with classroom teachers and counselors. This ensures that, every month, K-8 educators are given new integration ideas for career activities.

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Each 8-10 page packet contains ready-to-use classroom ideas. The packets include worksheets, bulletin board ideas, small units of study, and teacher ideas. Not only are they written by master educators, they are also illustrated by four art teachers in the state who are particularly skilled in black line drawings. The illustrations add great graphic appeal for students.

For the past few years, each monthly packet has focused on a different curriculum area. We feature language arts, math, science, and social studies on a rotating basis. In addition, one packet each year focuses on a unique topic. For example, last January's elementary packet featured career infusion ideas to use with the Winter Olympics. The key topics (from the *Blueprint*) that each activity addresses are listed at the bottom of the packet page so educators continually see the scope of Career Development. If the activity supports one of the learner goals for the Ohio Proficiency Test, that goal is also listed at the bottom of the packet page. This helps educators understand that career activities are not separate from subject area curricula, but are a great support to subject content.

Last year we also included one *Home Connection* page in each packet. This page contains a career activity that parents or guardians can do with their children at home. For example, one *Home Connection* page in a packet that featured social studies asked elementary students to complete a technological timeline with their parents or guardians. After interviewing adults about the technological changes seen in their lifetimes, students had to identify the changes and plot them according to decade on the timeline. They also had to indicate how this change impacted the adult's career. The adults and children then had to forecast future technological changes and mark those on the timeline. These *Home Connection* pages help us to get parents and guardians more involved in their children's career thoughts and dreams, and, eventually, in their career decision-making process.

Although we do not offer packets to high school educators, they do have a state resource for career integration ideas. The Ohio Career Information System (OCIS) is a computerized career system that 95% of our high schools have. It contains files that provide occupational information as well as information about higher education facilities across the country. Another file in OCIS contains approximately 400 ideas for secondary career curriculum integration. Like the career packets, this file (called PLAN) offers bulletin boards, worksheets, teacher ideas, and small units of study--all by curriculum area. The PLAN file is updated about every 3 years, so it can be a source of new ideas for teachers.

We believe successful career integration takes place in the classroom when educators know what they are expected to teach, and when they are given good ideas to help them teach it. The *Blueprint*, the career packets, and the PLAN file have been a tremendous help in ensuring that career integration actually happens.

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